

**Board of Park Commissioners
November 10, 2008**

**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Public Works, South Conference Room
8th Floor, City Hall
Monday, November 10, 2008
3:30 p.m.**

Present: Janet Miller, Bryan Frye, Glen Dey, Tom Roth, Matt Goolsby Andy Solter and John Stevens

Absent: None

Also Present: Doug Kupper, Director, Park and Recreation; Karen Walker, Assistant Director, Park and Recreation; Kathy Benninga, staff; Chris Carrier, Director, Public Works, Carl Hass, Engineer, Public Works, Scott Wadle, Planner, MAPD, Scott Moore, Interim City Manager and Joe Lang, City Attorney

President Miller called the meeting to order at approximately 3:30 p.m.

PUBLIC AGENDA

Chris Lasiter, 239 E. Summit, Augusta KS

Lasiter came to speak regarding Pawnee Prairie usage. Recently relocated here from Texas, Lasiter wants to find local places to mountain bike. Lasiter appealed to the Park Board to open Pawnee Prairie back up to mountain bike riders; interested in sharing the trails with the horse community.

Suggestions were made to split the usage based on days of the week. Kupper clarified that mountain bikes have never been approved in Pawnee Prairie Park and that a joint use was tried back when the Park fell in District V. Horse riders had convinced DAB that it was a bad plan because of spooking the horse and throw the riders.

Kupper explained that Chapin Park construction bidding will be starting soon which will allow for mountain bike riders. Kupper explained to Miller that the construction of Chapin should begin after the beginning of the year. Goolsby recommended bringing it to the District 4 DAB meeting in December.

Tom Pihl, 1157 S. Webb Road, #407, Wichita KS

Pihl supports the mountain bike suggestion for Pawnee Prairie. Pihl believes that with education the park could be a coexistent park for horse and bike riders.

Miller suggested after the DAB meetings discuss Pawnee Prairie suggestions, it be brought back to the Park Board for the January 2009 meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On Motion by Miller, second by Solter, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to return from Executive Session.

REGULAR AGENDA

On Motion by Miller, second by Goolsby, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to flip items #3B and #3C to have PROS Plan Adoption after the Riverbank ordinance.

On Motion by Miller, second by Goolsby, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to add CIP to item #2A.

Item 1: Approval of Minutes

Miller motions for approval. Motion moved by Solter, second by Dye, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to approve the Park Board meeting minutes of September 20, 2008 and October 20, 2008.

Item 2A New Issues for Consideration

Kupper recently sent email to City Council regarding CIP submissions by December 1, 2008. Three documents distributed; old CIP 2009-2016, list of park names and costs, and Marty Miller's completed CIP form as an example of what needs to be submitted.

Kupper instructed that no official action needed today, this information was distributed to start feedback. Solter raised the question that if more information was needed if it was to be brought back to the Park Board. Kupper responded that was correct and that Parks would be completing the paperwork. Park Board Members need to compare suggestions from their districts with the PROS plan and align the priorities.

Miller stated that this round of the CIP was to incorporate recommendations from the PROS Plan.

Goolsby asked what the \$70,000 restroom consultant study was for. Kupper explained that so many parks do not have them and so many that are from the 1940's and 50's that we need to decide if they need to be raised and if so what do we replace them with. Goolsby asked if they were historic buildings. Kupper informed that the Riverside restrooms are, the rest are just old, no historic importance.

Kupper explained that part of this project is to review and see if there are things we would like to see done in lieu of other projects

Item 3A: ROW Purchase at MacDonald Golf Course

Presented by Chris Carrier, Director, Public Works. Understands Park Board has been addressed with this topic before. Today's presentation is what Public Works would like to do as a part of their projects to make improvements along the golf course, along 13th, and do it in combination with their work so no additional contracts need to be drawn up. Carrier reviewed the project with Carl Haas on PowerPoint which shows the five-lane improvement along MacDonald Golf Course. Carrier said doing a four-lane without a center turn lane had been discussed with Council Member Williams and she did not want to go in that direction. Council Member Williams wants to go forward with the center turn lane.

Carrier updated on proposed ideas of the new fence to be placed along the side of the Golf Course..Solter raised the question if it would take out any trees in the easement, Carrier said the trees will be worked around and that any trees that would have to come out would be replaced.

Carrier explained that the new fence would go all along the north side of the Golf Course and would wrap around and down to Roosevelt. Wall to be installed could have a sign placed on it; samples of brick walls with rod-iron fencing photographs were shown as examples. Carrier

Carrier brought up costs factors were a wide variety based on the contractors. Carl Haas explained that the bids were anywhere from \$250,000 up to a half million. \$250,000 was not the lowest bid; it was just the lowest bid they were looking into. Carrier stated that the final cost would be determined once items are bid out. They have discussed with City Council and some are okay with the bid and some are not. Public Works wants to beautify the area and include the improvements with the cost of their project; in turn, Parks would deed Public Works the right-of-way that they need. Public Works would include a sidewalk with the fence.

Roth asked what the size of the sidewalk would be, Carrier said typically six feet but potentially wider.

Stevens expressed concerns that the cost has greatly fluctuated and there has been great confusion. States that the Park Board has been harassed on whether it will be a four or five lane. Stevens spoke with the Mayor and was told by him that it was going to be a five lane. A man on Public Works staff stated that if Parks didn't do business with them on their bases we would end up having a four lane. The Park is in Stevens district that he represents and the public has been told that certain things will be completed out there. Stevens wants an understanding out there so they have something nice across from the residential properties. Feels the Park Board has made very fair offers and feels the Park Board has been chiseled down.

Carrier responds that with Park Board approval, Public Works will build the fence. Doesn't know the cost because the estimates are so varied, but the project will be publically bided as part of the project. Carrier tells Stevens that no matter the cost they will put it in their project.

Scott Moore, Interim City Manager, explains that after speaking with Council Member Williams, today's presentation was to take care of their commitment to the Parks. Anything else related to

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McDonald Park would be figured into the CIP as money is allocated additional money will be built in.

Carrier adds that as things are discussed with Council Members, they understand there are things we need to do.

Dye adds that since it's not really a complete street, for biker's to be able to utilize the area, we need at least an eight foot sidewalk and/or striping for a bike lane.

Haas responds that there isn't enough room for striping; which is why they are considering the eight foot sidewalk.

Joe Lang asks if Public Works is looking for Park Board action today in the deeding of the right-of-way.

Carrier responds that they would like to know if we are proceeding towards that to get the paperwork done and ultimately agree to something.

Kupper states it would be up to the Park Board would have to make the motion to accept the offer.

On motion by Goolsby, second by Frye, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to accept the offer presented and amend the previous offer.

Miller responds that we are being asked to do something different today than we were asked to do before. Originally it was the Park Boards strategy to ask for a proposal that includes fencing. Public Works asked us not to do that but to state the value that we wanted for the land, which is what we did. Miller believes that a reasonable person would look at this and say we are building a "Cadillac fence" and that the back part will still look like a "Pinto." Miller explains that she is disappointed in that and feels the residents will be as well. Wants to look further into the planters idea.

Dye states that it's a unique park, the original Country Club Wichita had.

Carrier states that with Kupper's help the departments could put a CIP together.

Lang expresses that the fence proposal will not be in the deed.

Kupper responds that the contract put together by Philbrick, which will include the improvements, will have to be signed as well.

Carrier understands that we want a guarantee and that is what he wants too.

Stevens wants a guarantee that this will happen in a quality way no matter how much Public Works has to spend.

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Carrier responds that Public Works will take care of what the Park Board wants.

Solter questions Moore on when CIP will go before the City Council. Moore responds that the documents should be before Council in February 2009.

Miller states that this Park Board has a history of being reasonable for okaying easements and has never requested for park improvements. These need to happen for this neighborhood.

Motion carried.

Kupper asks Miller if there is a particular fence type they want around the Golf Course. Plans will be to have the fence put in 2009-2010

Item 3B: Riverbank Ordinance Update

Miller explains that this is an issue where the private land ends and public land begins. Lang and M.S. Mitchell. Lang explains that this will be a case by case as issues arise. Current ordinance dealing with the Arkansas River states that area between the high water marks is Arkansas River bank area which is under jurisdiction of the Park Board. Working with Mr. Mitchell, ordinary high water marks is the terminology typically used.

Lang would like City Council to pass this, not adding park land but adding public easements. This would close the current properties; it would be based under park jurisdiction. Nothing we do here can change the ownership of Park property.

Solter asks about how playground for the kids will fit in. Lang states that it would come back to the Park Board. Explained that some citizens already have gazebos, flower beds, gardens, etc. already in place.

M.S. Mitchell brought a cross-section of what was created on the Arkansas River. Mitchell explains that the reason for the work already done was for flood control. The River is part of the flood control system. When the Lincoln dam was put in, the normal pool backed water up over part of the cross section. The cross-section was lowered. This section was the edge of vegetation. The word ordinary in front of water mark means something completely lower than a designed high water mark, FEMA's high water mark, etc. The jurisdiction of the park land then would stand from the water mark and higher up. Mitchell recommends the Park Board adopts the ordinance as Lang has proposed with the word "ordinary" struck. This would leave each situation ruled on a case by case basis.

Lang states he would go along with that he was simply trying to find a more defined description.

Goolsby asked why we don't make a high water mark. Lang responded that unless we accept the design, there is no real line.

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Miller asks the Board if everyone understands and wants to adopt the change today or if they need time to discuss and think about it. Miller states this item has been on our tracking sheet for two years.

On motion by Miller, second by Solter, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to recommend to City Council to adopt the amended language as proposed.

Item 3C: PROS Plan Adoption

Scott Wadle presents and begins with commending the Park Board on adopting the PROS Plan. Wadle discusses funding options. First option is maxing out the credit card and leverage as much as possible. It's recommended to strike this option out.

Stevens would like to see the money separated from the proposed plan to see how we are setting it aside for each park.

Goolsby mentions that if we lose Botanica to another department, he isn't anxious to fund their improvements. Wadle asks if anyone would like to see Botanica removed from PROS; he recommends leaving it for now.

Miller clarifies that Park Board and staff and community input would regulate any changes.

Wadle explains how the costs were figured per acre; adding and renovating swimming pools and adding neighborhood recreation centers. Total has been revised from \$600 million to \$550 million. This amount is nearly \$100 million under what MIG initially proposed as they didn't figure in neighborhood centers as standalone items or swimming pools. Wadle also stated that they were way over in construction costs as well since they don't know the general amounts here in Wichita. A total of \$43 million has been placed on bike paths.

Miller states that we are asking the Council for an adoption of the plan as a guide and vision for developing Parks as the money will subsequently will allow. We will come back to ask for funding for particular parts of it. The economy is not good enough currently to ask for additional CIP dollars.

Wadle shows the average cost for a 1% sales tax on the average Wichitan. With a 1% sales tax, the estimated monies raised would be \$66 million/year.

Kupper explains that we have been looking at the recommendations and what that might mean, but that aren't expecting any actions today.

Wadle said these numbers don't factor in the City's size will grow over time which will generate additional funding from taxes.

Kupper added that we have to realize what else the City needs and how that can affect our numbers.

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Stevens mentioned that there is a tremendous push nationally to improve infrastructure to stimulate the economy.

Wadle updated Members on next steps for PROS Plan including November 18th workshop. Miler encouraged Members to attend this workshop. Wadle added on November 20th there is an MAPC public hearing being held on the 10th floor at 1:30; December 16th is the Wichita City Council Meeting which is the preliminary meeting to address the Council regarding adoption of the PROS Plan and on December 17th the Board of County Commissioners meeting but we may have to shoot to attend a later one.

Kupper stated that on December 1st is when the Park Board plans to discuss their recommendation for City Council regarding the PROS Plan.

Item 4: Review of Pending Issues

Miller reviewed the Park Board tracking sheet and updated the item concerning Country Acres 4th & 5th addition to note that the letter of intent had been received.

Item 5: Updates from the Director and President

On Motion by Miller, second by Dey, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to move the December Park Board Meeting to December 1, 2008.

Item 6: Issues on the Horizon

No items.

Item 7: Adjourn

Miller adjourned at approximately 6:00p.m.

Janet L. Miller, President

ATTEST:

Kathy L. Benninga, Recording Secretary